

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 /085 W
-----123000 291117Z /13

R 280927Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3678
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
GYRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 267
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4022

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, SY
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AND ARAB LEAGUE CENTRAL
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BOYCOTT OFFICE IN DAMASCUS

REF: (A) STATE 142390, (B) STATE 146034

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES INSTRUCTIONS REF (A) PERMITTING
APPROACHES TO SYRIAN BOYCOTT OFFICIALS AND ARAB LEAGUE
CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE. SUCH APPROACHES WILL PERMIT

US NOT ONLY TO SEEK BENEFICIAL INTERPRETATIONS AND
MODICP
ATIONS OF EXISTING BOYCOTT REGULATIONS AND
PRACTICES WITH OFFICIALS MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED BUT
ALSO TO OBTAIN DIRECT, NON-HEARSAY INFORMATION AS TO
JUST WHAT THOSE REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES ARE. GIVEN
PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY OF SYRIAN GOVERNMENT TO BOYCOTT
MEASURES AS WELL AS PRESENCE OF ARAB LEAGUE OFFICE
IN DAMASCUS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY
IN EXPLOSGNG POSSIBLE SYRIAN AND ARAB LEAGUE
ACCOMMODATION WITH NEW U.S. LEGISLATION. IN CONVERSA-
TION WITH LOCAL GM DEALER, WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS
MEANT AS MESSAGE TO USG, ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTT OFFICE
COMMISSIONER GENERAL MAHJOUB MADE THE POINT OF STATING
THAT BOYCOTT OFFICE WAS PREPARED TO SEEK ACCOMMODATION
PROVIDED WE MADE NO PUBLIC ISSUE OF MATTER.

2. INITIAL EMBASSY CONTACT WITH SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ON
THIS MWTTTER HAS BEEN PRIVATE AND OFF-THE-RECORD
CONVERSATION JUNE 23 BY ECONOFF WITH MINFIN AYYOUBI.
AYYOUBI PASSED ALONG THE ADVICE THAT SO FAR
AS SARG POLICY CONCERNED THE KEY TO ACHIEVING
ACCOMMODATION WE WANT IS IN THE HANDS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HE RECOMMENDED WE LAY
CAREFUL GROUNDWORK WITH MINECON IMADI SO THAT ISSUES
COULD BE PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT IN NON-EMOTIONAL,
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ECONOMIC CONTEXT. IN DEALING WITH THE CENTRAL BOYCOTT
OFFICE, AYYOUBI RECOMMENDED WE DEAL ONLY WITH
COMMISSIONER GENERAL MAHJOUB AS HIS DEPUTIES ARE
INDIVIDUALS EAGER TO SHOW THEIR CREDENTIALS AS STALWART
SUPPORTERS OF THE BOYCOTT BUT LACK AUTHORITY TO MAKE
DECISIONS. ECONOFF ALSO CAME AWAY FROM
SESSION WITH AYYOUBI CONVINCED THAT ALL MISSION OFFICERS
WHO WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISCUSSING ASPECTS
OF THIS ISSUE WITH ARAB OFFICIALS MUST HAVE THOROUGH
PREPARATION AND GROUNDING ON ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND
FOLLOW-ON REGULATIONS, AS WELL AS USG POLICY.

3. REGARDING PROPOSED STATE-COMMERCE DELEGATION, WE
BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE SMALL AND TECHNICAL IN ORIENTATION,
AIMED PRINCIPALLY AT BRIEFING AMBASSADORS AND ECONOMIC
STAFFS OF MIDDLE EAST MISSIONS. REASONS FOR THIS
RECOMMENDATION ARE: FIRST, THAT OUR APPROACHES TO
EACH ARAB GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO BE TAILORED TO MEET
ORIENTATION AND PARTICULAR SENSITIVITIES OF OFFICIALS
INVOLVED; SECONDLY, TO BE SUCCESSFUL DIALOGUE ON
BOYCOTT WILL HAVE TO BE CONTINUOUS; AND, THIRDLY, IT
WILL TAKE PLACE ON MANY LEVELS, INCLUDING NOT ONLY TOP-

LEVEL CONTACTS BUT ALSO DAY-TO-DAY WORKING LEVEL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL AND USAID OFFICERS AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS. IN ADDITION, THIS TYPE OF DELEGATION WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO ATTRACT ADVERSE PUBLICITY WHICH COULD HARDEN LOCAL ATTITUDES.

4. POST WOULD WELCOME SUCH A VISIT AS SOON AS STATE-COMMERCE ABLE TO ASSEMBLE A DELEGATION WHICH CAN GIVE AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETATION OF LAW AND ITS REGULATIONS. SECOND TEAM MIGHT BE PLANNED LATER IN 1977 AFTER REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTED TO KEEP POSTS UP TO DATE. WE WOULD ALSO PREFER BRIEFINGS TO TAKE PLACE HERE SO THAT ALL INTERESTED OFFICERS CAN PARTICIPATE AND ALSO TO AVOID ADVERSE PUBLICITY WHICH REGIONAL GATHERING
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MIGHT ATTRACT.

5. IN ADDITION TO TELEGRAPHED TEXT, POST WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE TEN COPIES OF FULL OFFICIALLY PRINTED TEXT OF LAW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SUGGEST ALSO THAT DEPARTMENT PREPARE AUTHORITATIVE ARAB LANGUAGE TEXT OF LAW TO AVOID MULTIPLE UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS BEING PREPARED BY VARIOUS POSTS AND ARAB GOVERNMENTS.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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